Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 04900 161630Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 VO-05
CA-01 /032 W
----------101140 170931Z /11
R 161350Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4144

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 4900

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: QSSM, PINS, SREF, GH
SUBJ: GHANAIAN DISSIDENTS MAY FLEE TO TOGO

1. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, TWO INTERMEDIARIES HAVE COME SEPARATELY TO EMBASSY SEEKING HELP FOR THIER RELATIVES, ONE OF WHOM(A MR. OWUSU-ANSAH) IS NOW BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE AS AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT DISSIDENT AND THE OTHER (TBEDY MARK COFIE) HAS HAD HIS GHANAIAN PASSPORT CONFISCATED BY SECURITY FORCES AT THE AIRPORT FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE US AND FEEARS HE MAY BE ARRESTED SOON. WE TOLD BOTH INTERMEDIARIES THAT WHILE WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THE PLIGHT OF THEIR PRINICIPALS, WE DO NOT INTERVENE IN GHANA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ARE THUS NOT IN A POSITION TO HELP THEM AVOID ARREST OR ESCAPE FROM THIS COUNTRY. INTERMEDIARIES ACCEPTED THIS POINT OF VIEW BUT INDICATED PRINCIPALS MAY TRY TO SLIP OVER TOGO BORDER AND TRY TO GET TO LONDON OR TO THE US FROM LOME.
2. WE DO NOT KNOW OWUSU-ANSAH, BUT MARK COFIE IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED AND PROSPEROUS BUSINESSMAN IN ACCRA. HIS INTERMEDIARY SAID HE ALSO HAS INTERESTS IN JAPAN AND HAS VISITED THE US MANY TIMES. WE TOLD BOTH INTERMEDIARIES THAT THEIR PRINCIPALS COULD APPLY FOR US VISAS IN LOME IF THEY LIKED, POINTING OUT POSSIBLE
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DIFFICULTIES THEY MIGHT FACE IN ESTABLISHING NIV BONA FIDES AND NOTING THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE VALID PASSPORTS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE GIVES US NAMES AND ANY BIO DATA YOU CAN GET ON GHANAIAN REFUGEES WHO MAY APPLY FOR VISAS. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISSIDENT FACTIONS, EXILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ACCRA04900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780253-1014
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780652/aaaabszo.tel
Line Count: 60
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fe32e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2329133
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GHANAIAN DISSIDENTS MAY FLEE TO TOGO
TAGS: PINS, SREF, GH
To: LOME LONDON
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fe32e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014